

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, January 26, 2006

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Missouri Metro Areas See Job Increases; Unemployment Falls In Most Other Areas

JEFFERSON CITY _ Nearly all Missouri's metropolitan areas created jobs in December while unemployment rates fell in most of the remaining parts of the state, the Department of Economic Development reported today.

Six of the state's metropolitan areas had higher employment in December. Gains were 100 jobs in St. Joseph; 300 jobs each in Springfield and Kansas City; 500 jobs in Columbia; 1,100 jobs in Joplin and 3,200 jobs in St. Louis. Most areas experienced seasonal growth in retail trade while small increases were spread through a number of other industries, primarily in the private service-providing sectors. Seasonal decreases in construction employment were common with the onset of winter weather.

Overall, Missouri's seasonally adjusted unemployment for December was 5.1 percent down from an adjusted 5.6 percent in November. In fact, 74 of the state's 115 counties had lower unemployment rates in December than in November, and 100 had lower rates than a year ago. Meanwhile, the additional 7,600 new jobs created statewide last month bring to 38,300 the total number of new jobs created in 2005.

"In almost every part of Missouri, more people are working and providing for their families and that is a credit to our workers and entrepreneurs who are committed to helping grow this economy," Gov. Matt Blunt said. "We intend to build on these successes in the coming year with a vision that further promotes economic expansion and job creation."

Over the past year, all metropolitan areas except Jefferson City experienced growth. In Jefferson City, decreases of 800 jobs in state government, 400 in goods-producing industries and 100 in local government more than offset the 1,100-job growth of the private service-providing industries to result in an overall decrease of 200 jobs. The most rapid growth was in Columbia where employment grew by 2.9 percent or 2,600 jobs. Joplin and Springfield each experienced 2 percent growth, representing gains of 1,800 and 4,300 jobs, respectively.

In St. Louis, employment grew by 6,200 jobs or 0.5 percent. Health care and social assistance added 3,500 jobs, while employment in professional and business services also increased by 3,500. Transportation, warehousing and utilities industries lost 2,300 jobs, as high fuel costs contributed to existing problems, particularly in air transportation. Retail trade employment was down by 2,100 over the year, as older shopping centers continued to retrench. State and local government together shed 3,200 jobs over the past year.

Kansas City metropolitan area employment was up by 5,500 jobs or 0.6 percent over the year. Strong growth in construction as well as in professional services, health care and social assistance, other services and merchant wholesalers of durable goods were the principal contributors.

Most sectors other than manufacturing grew in the Springfield metro area with educational and health services and government contributing the most new jobs.

Unemployment rates fell in the large majority of substate areas. All metropolitan areas experienced lower unemployment in December than in November. Only Kansas City had a jobless rate higher than a year earlier and that was by only a tenth of a point. Joplin had the largest over-the-year decrease at 0.7 points. December unemployment rates, from low to high, were Columbia at 3.1, Springfield at 3.7, Jefferson City and Joplin at 4.0, St. Louis at 4.9, Kansas City at 5.0 and St. Joseph at 5.1.

Micropolitan area unemployment generally decreased in December. The only exceptions were Branson, where the effective end of the tourist season led to a 2.4 point increase in unemployment; Kennett (up 0.3); and Hannibal (up 0.1). Rates ranged from 3.1 percent in Maryville to 7.9 in Kennett and 8.0 in Branson. Among counties, unemployment rates ranged from 3.0 percent in Boone County to 9.9 percent in Washington County.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS AND SINGLE-COUNTY LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs)
CURRENT MONTH (DECEMBER 2005), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER), AND YEAR AGO (DECEMBER 2004)

	DEC 2005	NOV 2005	OCT 2005	DEC 2004		DEC 2005	NOV 2005	OCT 2005	DEC 2004
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U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	4.6	4.8	4.6	5.1	MEXICO (Audrain Co.)	4.8	5.4	4.7	5.6
MISSOURI	4.9	5.3	4.5	5.4	MOBERLY (Randolph Co.)	4.5	4.9	4.1	5.2
<u>METROPOLITAN AREAS</u>					POPLAR BLUFF (Butler Co.)	5.0	5.4	4.6	5.8
COLUMBIA MSA	3.1	3.5	3.0	3.3	ROLLA (Phelps Co.)	3.9	4.2	3.5	4.4
Boone	3.0	3.5	3.0	3.2	SEDALIA (Pettis Co.)	5.3	5.5	4.7	6.3
Howard	4.2	4.1	3.3	4.4	SIKESTON (Scott Co.)	5.2	5.7	4.8	6.5
JEFFERSON CITY MSA	4.0	4.2	3.5	4.2	WARRENSBURG (Johnson Co.)	4.2	4.5	3.9	4.7
Callaway	4.4	4.2	3.6	4.7	WEST PLAINS (Howell Co.)	4.5	4.9	4.3	5.5
Cole	3.6	4.1	3.4	3.7	QUINCY (MO PT - Lewis Co.)	4.7	4.5	3.8	5.1
Moniteau	4.5	4.6	3.7	5.3	KEOKUK (MO PT - Clark Co.)	5.2	5.2	4.2	6.0
Osage	4.2	4.4	3.9	3.8	<u>SINGLE COUNTY LMAs</u>				
JOPLIN MSA	4.0	4.7	4.1	4.8	Atchison	4.2	4.5	3.7	5.3
Jasper	3.9	4.6	4.1	4.8	Barry	4.5	5.0	4.1	5.5
Newton	4.2	4.8	4.2	4.9	Barton	4.5	4.9	4.1	4.9
KANSAS CITY MSA	5.0	5.6	5.1	4.9	Benton	5.8	5.9	4.5	6.6
KANSAS CITY MSA (MO PT)	5.2	5.8	5.0	5.1	Camden	6.2	5.7	4.3	7.2
Bates	6.2	5.9	4.8	6.1	Carroll	4.6	5.1	4.0	6.3
Caldwell	5.0	5.6	4.3	5.0	Carter	6.3	6.1	4.6	7.5
Cass	4.9	4.9	4.2	4.4	Cedar	5.2	5.8	4.7	6.3
Clay	4.2	4.7	4.0	3.8	Chariton	5.2	5.7	5.0	6.1
Clinton	5.0	5.0	4.1	4.9	Cooper	4.0	4.4	3.6	4.9
Jackson	5.8	6.5	5.7	5.8	Crawford	6.2	6.4	5.1	6.8
Lafayette	5.2	5.1	4.3	4.6	Dade	4.6	5.6	4.7	5.2
Platte	4.0	4.5	3.9	3.6	Daviess	4.4	4.4	4.0	4.7
Ray	4.5	4.9	4.1	4.8	Dent	6.2	6.7	5.5	7.2
ST. JOSEPH MSA	5.1	5.4	4.6	6.2	Douglas	5.3	5.6	4.7	6.7
ST. JOSEPH MSA (MO PT)	5.1	5.3	4.6	6.2	Gasconade	5.6	5.5	4.5	6.4
Andrew	4.9	4.4	3.7	5.6	Gentry	4.4	4.7	3.7	4.1
Buchanan	5.0	5.5	4.8	6.5	Grundy	5.2	5.2	4.6	5.8
DeKalb	5.4	4.9	4.4	4.8	Harrison	5.6	5.1	4.1	5.4
ST. LOUIS MSA	4.9	5.3	4.8	5.6	Henry	5.8	5.8	5.0	6.9
ST. LOUIS MSA (MO PT)	4.8	5.3	4.6	5.5	Hickory	6.9	7.3	6.1	9.6
Franklin	5.5	5.2	4.2	5.5	Holt	4.5	4.2	3.4	5.1
Jefferson	4.9	5.0	4.2	5.4	Iron	7.3	7.1	6.2	8.9
Lincoln	5.0	4.6	4.0	5.7	Knox	3.3	3.5	3.1	4.0
St. Charles	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.9	Lawrence	4.0	4.4	3.8	4.8
St. Louis Co.	4.4	5.0	4.4	5.1	Linn	7.5	8.6	8.2	8.9
Warren	4.9	5.1	4.2	5.1	Livingston	4.7	4.9	4.1	5.6
Washington	9.9	8.2	6.9	9.7	Macon	4.9	4.5	3.9	5.6
St. Louis City	7.3	8.2	7.3	8.9	Madison	5.8	6.3	5.6	6.9
SPRINGFIELD MSA	3.7	4.3	3.6	4.3	Maries	4.1	4.6	3.9	4.7
Christian	3.6	3.8	3.2	4.1	Mercer	4.8	4.3	3.5	4.4
Dallas	5.2	5.5	4.6	6.2	Miller	6.8	5.9	4.5	7.5
Greene	3.7	4.3	3.6	4.2	Mississippi	6.5	6.8	5.8	8.3
Polk	4.1	4.6	4.0	4.3	Monroe	5.6	5.2	4.2	6.4
Webster	3.9	4.4	3.8	4.7	Montgomery	5.3	5.5	4.5	6.1
FAYETTEVILLE MSA (MO PT - McDonald Co)	3.2	3.6	3.4	4.5	Morgan	7.1	6.3	4.9	8.1
<u>MICROPOLITAN AREAS</u>					New Madrid	7.5	7.4	6.0	6.4
BRANSON	8.0	5.6	4.6	8.6	Oregon	4.7	5.4	4.8	5.7
Stone	7.8	6.3	4.9	9.0	Ozark	6.0	5.8	4.8	6.7
Taney	8.2	5.2	4.4	8.4	Pemiscot	8.1	8.4	6.8	9.4
CAPE GIRARDEAU	4.5	4.8	4.2	5.1	Perry	3.5	3.9	3.4	4.3
CAPE GIRARDEAU (MO PT)	4.3	4.6	3.9	4.7	Pike	5.1	5.0	4.3	6.0
Bollinger	6.0	5.9	4.9	7.1	Putnam	4.5	5.0	4.2	5.2
Cape Girardeau	4.0	4.4	3.8	4.3	Reynolds	8.2	8.0	6.4	10.2
FARMINGTON (St. Francois Co.)	6.1	6.3	5.4	7.5	Ripley	5.6	6.0	5.2	6.4
FT. LEONARD WOOD (Pulaski Co.)	4.5	5.0	4.3	5.2	St. Clair	5.3	5.3	4.6	6.3
HANNIBAL	5.2	5.1	4.3	6.2	Ste. Genevieve	5.1	5.3	4.5	6.1
Marion	5.1	5.1	4.4	5.8	Scotland	4.0	3.9	3.3	4.4
Ralls	5.4	5.1	4.1	7.2	Shannon	7.6	7.7	6.1	10.1
KENNETT (Dunklin Co.)	7.9	7.6	6.2	8.0	Shelby	5.7	4.7	3.9	8.4
KIRKSVILLE	4.1	4.3	3.7	4.4	Stoddard	6.0	5.6	4.6	7.1
Adair	3.8	4.1	3.4	4.0	Sullivan	6.0	6.2	5.1	7.0
Schuyler	5.8	6.1	5.0	6.8	Texas	6.0	6.5	5.1	7.2
LEBANON (Laclede Co.)	5.4	6.0	4.7	7.2	Vernon	4.2	4.8	4.1	5.1
MARSHALL (Saline Co.)	5.0	5.1	4.1	5.6	Wayne	6.3	7.1	5.9	8.1
MARYVILLE (Nodaway Co.)	3.1	3.2	2.8	3.4	Worth	3.7	4.3	3.1	4.1
					Wright	5.5	6.4	5.5	7.0

PRODUCED BY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/MERIC IN COOPERATION WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS